



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 235, April 15, 2013
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U Saskatchewan’s Ryan Walker involved in Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network: The Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN) works with communities to study issues faced by urban Aboriginal people, who make up more than 50 per cent of Canada’s Aboriginal population. Ryan Walker, director of the UAKN’s prairie centre and professor of urban planning at the U of S, explained that while community-based research often originates in academic offices, the UAKN is more likely to fund research projects that are generated by community groups. “Our goal is to give life to a community-driven model of research that brings together communities, government and academics so we can carry out a full process of knowledge creation to mobilization,” said Walker, whose own research is focused increasingly on embedding forms of Aboriginal culture into the fabric of urban planning and architecture. “What we really want, at the end of it all, is to build durable research infrastructure that makes peoples’ lives better than they were before we started.” The UAKN received funding in the spring of 2012 through a partnership grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. [U Saskatchewan News Release](#)

McMaster celebrates its Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada: Founded in 1882, the Royal Society of Canada is a senior national body of distinguished Canadian academics comprised of more than 2,000 Fellows – men and women who are selected by their peers for outstanding contributions to the arts and humanities, social sciences and science. McMaster’s Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada were honoured last week at a reception. The School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University is represented by John Eyles, Derek Ford, Richard Harris, Leslie King, Gerald Middleton, Henry Schwarcz and Roger Walker. [McMaster Daily News](#)

Queen’s U’s Victoria L. Henderson named Bernard Marcus Fellow by IHS: [Victoria L. Henderson](#) has been named a Bernard Marcus Fellow by the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) for the academic year 2012-2013. As an IHS Fellow, Victoria will continue her doctoral research on the history of classical liberalism in Latin America, with a specific focus on the Austrian School of Economics. Founded in 1961 by former Cornell economist F.A. Harper, IHS is dedicated to research and education that explores the relationship between freedom, peace, prosperity, and social harmony. [Queen’s Geography Newsletter](#)

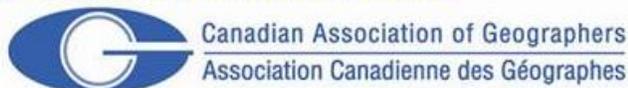
UQAM organise le 8e Colloque sur les risques naturels au Québec: Le Département de géographie de l’UQAM organise le 8e colloque sur les risques naturels au Québec. Ce colloque se tiendra dans le cadre du 81e congrès de l’ACFAS, le mercredi 8 mai 2013, à l’Université Laval, Québec. [Appel aux communications](#)

U Saskatchewan students present bold visions for troubled traffic bridge: It has sat derelict for nearly three years, but a group of students at the University of Saskatchewan believe a revamped and reimagined Traffic Bridge could be given a second life. Students in an advanced urban design class showed off their concepts for rebuilding Saskatoon's oldest bridge. "I think the Traffic Bridge is one of the icons of our city. It's been around our community for over a hundred years," said Henry Lau, a professor at the U of S's department of geography and planning and an architect with the City of Saskatoon. "These students are not ready to give up yet on the idea that it still could serve Saskatoon for another hundred years." Students in Lau's class were asked to design and build replica models of a new Traffic Bridge that would replace the aging structure. The winning concept, however, was awarded to a group that imagined the bridge would do more good if it wasn't built to move cars. "We chose to focus on people with a pedestrian and cycling only bridge," said Michael Kowalchuk, from the nine-person team that called itself Avenir. Instead of carrying cars, their new Traffic Bridge would be more like a public park that meanders across the river. It would be lined with trees and there would be solar panels to melt snow. There would be a cafe and restaurant at one end and an amphitheatre in the middle of the bridge that could host Jazz Festival concerts or Fringe Festival plays. [Recent News](#)

Okanagan College geographers connect the dots between the campuses: An ambitious and dedicated group of Okanagan College cyclists with a geographic bent have decided to connect the dots between all four campuses with a three-day open ride. "This is unlike any other event in the region," said OC4 Cyclosporitif organizer and Geography Professor Markus Heinrichs. "What we wanted to do was create something that would have all four campuses involved," he said. "And the community is going to have a chance to learn something about this unique region, visit each campus, get some exercise and enjoy some great gourmet food." The idea for the event came through a conversation the Salmon Arm-based professor had with his colleague, Geography Professor Levi Gahman. "We had been riding for a while, and he said why don't the two of us ride from Vernon to Kelowna," Heinrichs said. "And then we thought: we should ride between the campuses. I guess we got carried away." It didn't take long before the entire Geography and Earth & Environmental Science Department caught wind, and soon maps were being created on Google Earth so cyclists can actually learn about the topography as they tour the region. [Castanet.net](#)

Carleton U's Ryan Katz-Rosene participated in 3MT competition: As part of the Graduate Research Forum organized by the Graduate Students' Association (GSA), the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs (FGPA) hosted the inaugural Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on March 27, 2013. The 3MT competition was created by The University of Queensland, Australia in 2008 as a research communication competition for MA and PhD students engaged in research. Graduate students deliver a clear and concise oral presentation of their independent research, presenting the key idea and impact on academia/industry of their research in three minutes or less. Watch Ryan Katz-Rosene (Geography and Environmental Studies) give his 3MT. [FASS News](#)

[Communications from the CAG Executive...](#)



[Communications du comité exécutif de l'ACG...](#)

The latest issue of the CAG Newsletter "*Communications from the CAG Executive*" is now available for downloading from the Association website. Included is the Presidents Column from Jean Andreys, and a contribution from Norm Catto on the CGE November 2012 meeting. [Communications 20\(1\)](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jennifer A. Fresque-Baxter. 2013. [Participatory photography as a means to explore young people's experiences of water resource change](#). Indigenous Policy Journal 23.

Marney E. Isaac and Luke C. N. Anglauer. 2013. [An in situ approach to detect tree root ecology: linking ground-penetrating radar imaging to isotope-derived water acquisition zones](#). Ecology and Evolution. DOI:10.1002/ece3.543

Alun Joseph, Lex Chalmers and John Smithers. 2013. [Contested and congested spaces: Exploring authenticity in New Zealand farmers' markets](#). New Zealand Geographer 69:52–62.

Debasish PaiMazumder, Laxmi Sushama, René Laprise, M. Naveed Khaliq and Dave Sauchyn. 2013. [Canadian RCM projected changes to short- and long-term drought characteristics over the Canadian Prairies](#). International Journal of Climatology 33:1409–1423.

C. Poutiainen, L. Berrang-Ford, J. Ford and J. Heymann. 2013. [Civil society organizations and adaptation to the health effects of climate change in Canada](#). Public Health. DOI:10.1016/j.puhe.2013.02.004

Colette C.A. Starheim, Christopher Gomez, Justin Harrison, Claire Kain, Nicholas J. Brewer, Kirsty Owen, Danang Sri Hadmoko, Heather Purdie, Peyman Zavar-Reza, Ian Owens, Patrick Wassmer and Franck Lavigne. 2013. [Complex internal architecture of a debris-flow deposit revealed using ground-penetrating radar, Cass, New Zealand](#). 69:26-38.

Other “Geographical” News

Academic workload: a model approach. One of the concerns that I hear most frequently from university senior managers is that they have no idea how members of their academic staff are spending their time. And a common complaint from academics themselves is that the 'centre' just doesn't understand the huge number of different activities that they have to contend with. Workload modelling provides a way to bridge this gap. A workload model identifies the different activities undertaken by members of academic staff and allocates an agreed time 'budget' to each one. This allows academics, their departments and their institutions to construct a clear and comprehensive picture of who is doing what and how much time they are dedicating to it. It covers all members of academic staff, all activities and all work-related time. [The Guardian](#)

Technology lets professors track your reading: According to this [New York Times report](#), new technology from a company called CourseSmart allows instructors to keep track of a wide range of student reading habits. Has a student opened the book? Has she highlighted key passages? If not, according to at least one instructor in a pilot project, the professor can “reach out” to the student and discuss his study habits. Some will, no doubt, object that professors need to find ways to get students to do the reading, lest students should fail to learn. But that, to me, misses the whole point of university teaching. My aim is not to get you to learn: whether you want to learn or not is up to you. My job is to create an atmosphere in which you can learn a lot if you choose to do so. I hope you do, but I'm not going to try to intimidate you into doing it. [Macleans.ca](#)

Research? Most people cannot understand it: Should students be made to foot the bill for academic research that no one reads? Not any more, says Larry Zicklin, of New York University. With academic journals under increasing attack from several quarters, Mr Zicklin has upset some colleagues in urging schools to cut tuition fees by making faculty members focus more on teaching and less on publishing research in journals. He points to research that says that fees could be halved if 80 per cent of faculty with the lowest teaching loads were to teach only half as much as the 20 per cent with the highest teaching loads. He predicts that the rise of massive open online courses, or Moocs, and other market forces will conspire against schools that fail to act. [Financial Times](#)

Seasonal patterns of tropical rainfall changes from global warming revealed: Projections of rainfall changes from global warming have been very uncertain because scientists could not determine how two different mechanisms will impact rainfall. The two mechanisms turn out to complement each other and together shape the spatial distribution of seasonal rainfall in the tropics. A team of scientists found that rainfall in the models increases more in regions that currently are already wet and decreases slightly in currently dry regions, supporting the wet-gets-wetter mechanism. By merging the impact from the two mechanisms, they noted that they could account for nearly 80 percent of the variations in the models' projected rainfall changes from global warming. [ScienceDaily](#)

Expedition team releases photographs of threatened double-barrier reef: A rare double-barrier reef in the Philippines is facing grave threats and urgently needs increased protection, according to new photographic evidence. One of only six double-barrier reefs in the world and home to nearly 200 threatened species, Danajon Bank is an evolutionary birthplace of fish and other species found all over the Pacific ocean. Currently, 500,000 people depend on it as a source of food and income. [UBC Media Release](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



“Three ships is a lot of ships. Why can't you prove the world is round with one ship?”



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